

## FRANCE AND ITALY COMBINE.

INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATIONS  
CAUSED BY THE TREATY.

Will the Triple Alliance Be Broken Up?  
Italy and Germany Likely to Combine  
Against Austria—France Nearer to  
England—Russian Alliance Weakened.

ROME, Jan. 10.—A year ago I pointed out in THE SUN the natural effect which the affairs of France would have on international politics. The design of the new power indicated a loosening of the Franco-Russian alliance as being a clerical and reactionary measure, and with that object in view the completion of the alliance with Italy and later its extension so as to include England; in that way to put the foreign policy on the same sectarian level as the internal, and thus to crown "the plan of republican defence" by making it impossible for independent parties to open again the war on the anti-clerical combination.

The first act ends spectacularly with the speech that M. Barrière delivered at the Farnese palace, the French Embassy, to the French colony in Rome. His impassioned harangue continued the revelations of Signor Prinetti to the Italian parliament which threw full light on the Toulon festival and the change in the diplomacy of the two sister nations. M. Barrière, in an interview with a reporter of the *Giornale d'Italia* has sketched out the main outlines of the present policy.

The direction that affairs in general are taking seems significant. The French Republic to please the Quirinal accepts all accomplished facts, swallows all humiliations, raises the methods employed in settling the Fashoda matter to the dignity of a principle and an institution, gives Italy an increase of power in the Mediterranean, begins the conflict with Turkey, which means giving up to England for good the peaceful possession of Egypt, discreetly buries the alliance with Russia, turns somewhat toward England, and lastly introduces its plan of "western policy," such as M. Seignobos has been describing for three years past, and so progresses toward the foundation of a new Europe in which France with its genius for clearness is to be, as in 1792, the conquering initiator. Every "realism" must be made impossible and the monopoly of the anti-clerical coalition be made permanent. It is the diplomacy of an anti-religious policy.

I shall not insult M. Barrière and his principals by suggesting that they have recklessly formed ideas of treason. The Ambassador is carrying out a plan of his masters; he is an instrument. Among his hidden counsellors several, no doubt, have hopes that, aside from the attack on the Vatican, the result of the alliance with Italy will be to break up the Triple Alliance and thus enable France some day to wage against Germany that successful war which the Republic no longer cares to undertake in company with Russia. These men who hope for things in the far future may perhaps be successful, but we have the strongest reasons for fearing a repetition of 1859, 1866 and 1870. It was under like humanitarian and philosophical banners that Napoleon III. joined in with Italy, with the difference that the Emperor ingeniously intended to conciliate the Vatican with the Quirinal.

On account of its determined anticlericalism the present venture seems more open to risks and catastrophes. The Republic with a light heart is settling all difficulties, arm in arm with Italy, in alliance with Russia, ready to turn toward London, playing the game desired by Germany, which is drawing its conclusions from the premises of 1859 and 1866. The Republic fills its electors with words of peace and with amphoteric promises. Turkey and Austria grumble. What of that!

Here we have an ideal diplomatic figment. Never did Richelieu erect so majestic and sublime a mental edifice. But history objects and common sense protests. A rather severe critic might surely express some doubts, suggest some serious objections. It is true that such like builders of systems, do not listen to the lessons of experience or bear in mind the superior reality of facts. Nevertheless, beautiful and sublime though it be "to set free others," as the *Tempe* preached in its humanitarian tone, it would be fully as wise to calculate certain consequences and conditions.

If, as a matter of fact, the alliance with Italy were to break the Triple Alliance, there would be advantage in that. Is that so sure? Would not the Quirinal side on its profits and refuse to keep its promises, supposing, what seems too much to expect, that it has promised to give pledges? Has not the House of Savoy a traditional policy, marked out in olden times by Machiavelli and Guicciardini, carried out in part by Cavour and Crippa, namely, to do everything? Has it not betrayed and kicked into the abyss those who have benefited and assisted it?

Let us assume, so as not to seem interperate, that Italy does break up the Triple Alliance. That would be the most disastrous event for France. The Quirinal will never break with Germany and with England. Whoever knows the history of Guibelinism, of the "risorgimento" and of the "third Rome" cannot go wrong in that matter. A breach with the Triple Alliance means a breach with Austria, but not with Germany.

The breach would draw closer the bonds that join Germany and Italy. Never I emphasize the old-fashioned prophetic word—never, and this is perhaps one of the only severs that cannot be modified, will the Quirinal, so long as its account with the Vatican remains unsettled, be able to give action to quit either in London or Berlin. If the Kaiser allows Italy to shake off the Austrian halter our fears will reach the limit.

As a matter of fact, Italy put on its yoke, the continuation of the Austrian alliance, only at the instigation of the command of the march. By his four articles in the *Prest* and his flirtation with the Pope, the Chancellor had cast about for the Quirinal. That feeling guided the pose of Signor Marone and of King Humbert in signing the contract.

Italy hates Austria on account of the fact of the present and of the future, for the past for reasons that all know; for the present, because the alliance with Austria checks the nation on the Adriatic; for the future, because, on the Adriatic, the Quirinal wishes to rectify its natural tendencies. Now the day that Italy, free from apprehension on the side of the Alps, resumes her late attitude on the Adriatic, it will be because Berlin has given her a new signal and in that case Germany will believe that the hour is near for her to carry out the policy of "Alleanza" and it will mean the initiation of Austria in agreement with France.

In such a contingency, the only one likely in my mind, but at all events a possible one, what becomes of the French Republic? France will sink to the rank of Greece.

Other politicians, as M. A. Naquet, have shown their place in the book, "Humanité et Patrie," are dreaming of a new Europe under the shelter of this alliance with Italy.

that would serve as a prelude to an alliance with England. France would create a new world, the reign of cosmopolitanism, of which she would be the creator and the first victim. It would be painful to continue. In his excited New Year's Day speech, M. Barrière exalted the alliance with Italy. He is mounting to the Capitol. M. Delcassé will go up to it in his turn. If God does not put an end to this folly, France will one day curse M. Barrière as she put to shame M. Émile Ollivier.

## INNOMINATO.

## WILL OF E. C. SPOFFARD.

Estate of Half a Million Divided Among Relatives, Friends and Servants.

WHITE PLAINS, Feb. 1.—The will of Edward Clarence Spoffard, of Tarrytown, was filed for probate to-day. Though no estimate of the estate is given, it is thought to reach \$500,000. Mr. Spoffard was a bachelor and owned a fine estate on Broadway, Tarrytown. He suffered from a deformity of the spine for many years and was unable to walk. Mr. Spoffard leaves to his valet, William T. Morgan, \$10,000, and \$500 to each servant in his employ at the time of his death. To Jacob Halstead of Rye, an intimate friend, is left \$25,000. A rare collection of autographs and coins goes to the Metropolitan Museum. A set of the London Punch is left to the officers' library of the West Point Military Academy.

Other bequests are: Paul Nelson Spoffard, \$10,000; Thomas W. Pearsall, \$25,000; Adelaide T. Spoffard, \$5,000; Capt. J. C. Sandford, U. S. A., \$5,000 and a valuable library; Samuel Halstead, \$5,000. The remainder of the estate is to be divided into three parts for the benefit of Charlotte Pearsall Walker and one each to Paul Spoffard and Thomas W. Pearsall.

## DETECTIVE'S DOUBLE FOILS HIM.

Barkeep Served Beer to Former in Mistake for His Double—Released.

Thomas Leonard of 2583 Eighth avenue, who was arrested on Sunday charged with violating the Excise laws, put in a novel defence yesterday before Magistrate Pool in the West Side police court.

Leonard is employed at a hotel at 490 Tenth avenue. Detective Clarke of the West Thirty-seventh street station visited the hotel on Sunday and bought a glass of lager. Then he arrested Leonard who had served it.

When Leonard was arraigned before Magistrate Pool he said that he sold the drink to Clarke just at dusk and had mistaken him for James Reilly, who lived at the hotel. Magistrate Pool said that Leonard had a right to sell beer to guests of the hotel and gave him until yesterday to bring Reilly into court.

When the case was called yesterday Reilly, who said that he had lived at the hotel for six months, stepped up by the side of Clarke. The resemblance between the two men was very marked.

"Discharged," said the Magistrate.

## OH, MY PARENTS, COME BACK.

They Are in Newburgh; No, Chas.; No, South Africa, Says This Boy.

Charles Mosher, a well-dressed fifteen-year-old boy, was arraigned yesterday in the Centre street police court before Magistrate Cornell and turned over to the Gerry society to be held as a vagrant until his parents are found. Just who and where these parents are is at present problematical.

Mosher walked into the City Hall police station on Friday evening and addressed himself to the night sergeant there.

"I'm sick of it all," said he in true dime novel style. "I am ready to give myself up."

The night sergeant sent Mosher to Agent King of the Gerry society. To King the boy told a plausible story.

"My father was a seafaring man," he explained, "captain of the schooner Laura M. Vigar. He was shipwrecked and drowned two months ago. Mother died two months ago. She lived at 41 Hudson street, Newburgh."

King had much sympathy with young Mosher until he took him to the Centre street police court yesterday. Roundsmen Archie Taggart of the court squad once lived in Newburgh and he said that there was no such address as "41 Hudson street" in that hilly town. Mosher, whose face at all times is as doleful that of Sober Sue, then sprang a new one.

"You must have misunderstood me," said he. "My mother lived in Utica until two months ago when she moved to New Jersey and died. Father is at present in China."

King grew incredulous but he waited until young Mosher was arraigned before Magistrate Cornell before he heard the next story.

"Mother lives in Pennsylvania," explained the boy, "and father is on a sheep ranch in Cape Colony, South Africa. He has been sending me money regularly to pay for my board over in Brooklyn."

Close inquiry disclosed an amazing ignorance of Brooklyn streets and landmarks by the runaway boy. He said that he had an uncle named John J. Morino, living at 222 Ralph avenue in that borough, and then denied all that, saying that he had made a mistake. Finally the Court lost patience with the boy and gave him to the Gerry society to keep until they could find his parents.

"I have known liars and liars in this business," said Agent King afterward, "but this boy sprang by 'em all and walks in."

## WANT HIM TO BE CAPTAIN.

Invitation to Richard Stevens by New Jersey Militiamen.

Richard Stevens of Castle Point, Hoboken, is being urged by New Jersey militiamen to accept command of the new company that will be created with the reorganization of the National Guard proposed by Gov. Murphy. The Governor would tender him the command of the new company if Mr. Stevens would accept the guardmen say. His brother, Col. Edwin A. Stevens, was commander for many years of the old Second New Jersey Regiment, and Richard now maintains at his own expense the Stevens Battalion, an organization composed of young men of Hoboken.

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For SPRING and SUMMER,

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A complete line of Undergarments of Crepe de Chine (washable).

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On MONDAY and TUESDAY, will hold an UNUSUAL SALE of

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House Robes, Waists, Sacques, etc.,

Regularly 65c. to 85c. per yard, at 38c.

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## BLACK DRESS GOODS.

New importations are now

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2,500 yards BLACK ETAMINE,

46 inches wide, to-morrow (Monday), at per yard, 72c.

## COLORED DRESS GOODS.

3,500 yards IMPORTED PRINCESS CREPE,

42 inches wide, in Street and Evening colors, to-morrow (Monday), at per yard, 68c.

## UPHOLSTERY DEPARTMENT.

For Monday and Tuesday, February 3d and 4th:

Several hundred pairs of Lace Curtains, Sash Curtains and Portieres; Lace Bed Sets, Couch and Table Covers, medium and low priced goods in small quantities of a design, at GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

TAPESTRY PORTIERES, original prices \$6.50 to

\$10.00 per pair, at \$3.60 and 4.90

(Third Floor.)

Eighteenth Street, Nineteenth Street, Sixth Avenue, New York.

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## Advance Styles

Boys' Negligee Shirts, Waists and Blouses.

Shirts of Madras, Fancy Oxford Cloth, Scotch Flannel, White Cheviot and Botany Cloth. Blouses of Lawn, Brown Linen, Cheviot, Galatea, Duck and Flannel. Waists of Percale, Madras, Cambric and Linen, prices ranging from 98c. to \$2.00.

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MEN'S OVERCOATS, Lined and Trimmed with Genuine Furs:— Sizes from 38 to 54 chest measure; 48 to 54 inches long. ALL PRICES, from \$85 up.

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AUTOMOBILE COATS, covered with Coon and other serviceable furs:—All sizes. \$35 \$50 and \$75.

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SLEIGH ROBES:—Goat, Dog, Galway Buffalo, Wolf, Musk Ox, Fox, Bear, Mink, Sealskin and Hudson Bay Sable.

20% Discount.

FUR-LINED CIRCULARS and AUTOMOBILE COATS for LADIES:—\$30, \$42, \$50, \$75, \$100 up.

SEALSKIN CAPS and GLOVES, and COACHMEN'S OUTFITS.

ALASKA SEALSKIN Jackets, Coats, Muffs, &c., }  
PERSIAN LAMB Jackets, Coats, Capes:— } 10% Discount.  
All sizes and lengths; plain or trimmed.

RUSSIAN and HUDSON BAY SABLE:— } 15% Discount.  
MUFFS, BOAS, MANTLES, &c., }

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MUFFS, BOAS, &c., }

Lot of 10 MINK CAPES, various sizes, formerly sold at \$150, \$175 and \$200.

YOUR CHOICE FOR \$100.

FOX MUFFS, BOAS, &c.,

20% Discount.

NOTE.—Fox is fashionable and I sell it, but do not recommend it for service.

ROYAL ERMINE MUFFS and the new Coronation Cape and Imperial Scarf.

NOTE.—Owing to the recent great advance, I can make no discount on the price of Ermine, but will continue to sell manufactured articles at prices quoted before the advance.

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GREATLY REDUCED PRICES,

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All of which are appropriate for Engagement, Wedding, Birthday or Anniversary Gifts.

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Plain and Embroidered Panama Suitings, Pongee Tissues, Figured Swisses, Embroidered Batistes, Mulls, and Nainsooks, Printed Irish Dimities, Linen Lawns, and Mulls, French Piques, Croquet Checks.

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This stock is particularly attractive, having over 1,200 particularly selected patterns of the very best European manufacture. The quantity of each distinct design is limited, and cannot be duplicated this season, thereby insuring exclusiveness.

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West Twenty-third Street.

## Stern Brothers

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Steamer and Travelling Garments

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Crepe de Chine, Plain and Dotted Eoliennes, Etamines, Chiffon and Nuns' Veilings, Poplins and Batistes, Scotch Woollens in new effects, Novelties in Satin Striped Printed Challies, in exclusive designs

And in addition to-morrow

2,000 Yds., 45 in. Imported Black Grenadines, all silk and silk and wool, in dots, figures and stripes. Value \$1.75 and 2.00 yd. at 95c

3,500 Yds. All-wool Albatross in the newest shades for Street, House and Evening Wear, including cream, white and black, at 48c

## Women's Shirt Waists

Later Styles of Exclusive Materials Charvet Silks, Madras, Oxfords, Linens, Pique, White Hand Hemstitched and Embroidered Waists

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A special purchase of very desirable White Pique & Basket Oxford Waists \$1.25

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Misses' Tailor-made Walking & Golf Suits,

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